

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property U.S. Post Office

Historic name

Other name/site number 045-3010-2290

### 2. Location

Street & number 645 New Hampshire ☐ not for publication

City or town Lawrence ☐ vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Douglas Code 045 Zip code 66044

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this **XX** nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property **XX** meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide **XX** locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard S. Parkrey DSHPO September 16, 2002  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Kansas State Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official /Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

- ☐ entered in the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

U. S. Post Office

Douglas County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

**5. Classification****Ownership of Property**(Check as many boxes as apply)  
count.)

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions**

(Enter Categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: Post Office

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Business

**7. Description****Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals: Beaux Arts**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation

Stone: Limestone

Walls

Brick

Roof

Synthetics

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

U.S. Post Office

Douglas County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- XX C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

- ☐ D Property has yielded, or likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

### Period of Significance

1906

### Significant Dates

1906

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

James Knox Taylor

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS): Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ Previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering

Record # \_\_\_\_\_

### XX State Historic Preservation Office

- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Post Office

Douglas County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property Less Than One Acre**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

|        |         |          |
|--------|---------|----------|
| 15     | 306380  | 4315780  |
| 1 Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 2      |         |          |

|        |         |          |
|--------|---------|----------|
| 3 Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 4      |         |          |

☐ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**Name/title See Continuation Sheet

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Street &amp; number \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

City or town \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

**Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional Items**

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**name Dan C. Simmons, Postal Investors, L.C.street & number 609 New Hampshiretelephone 785-832-7176city or town Lawrencestate KSzip code 66044

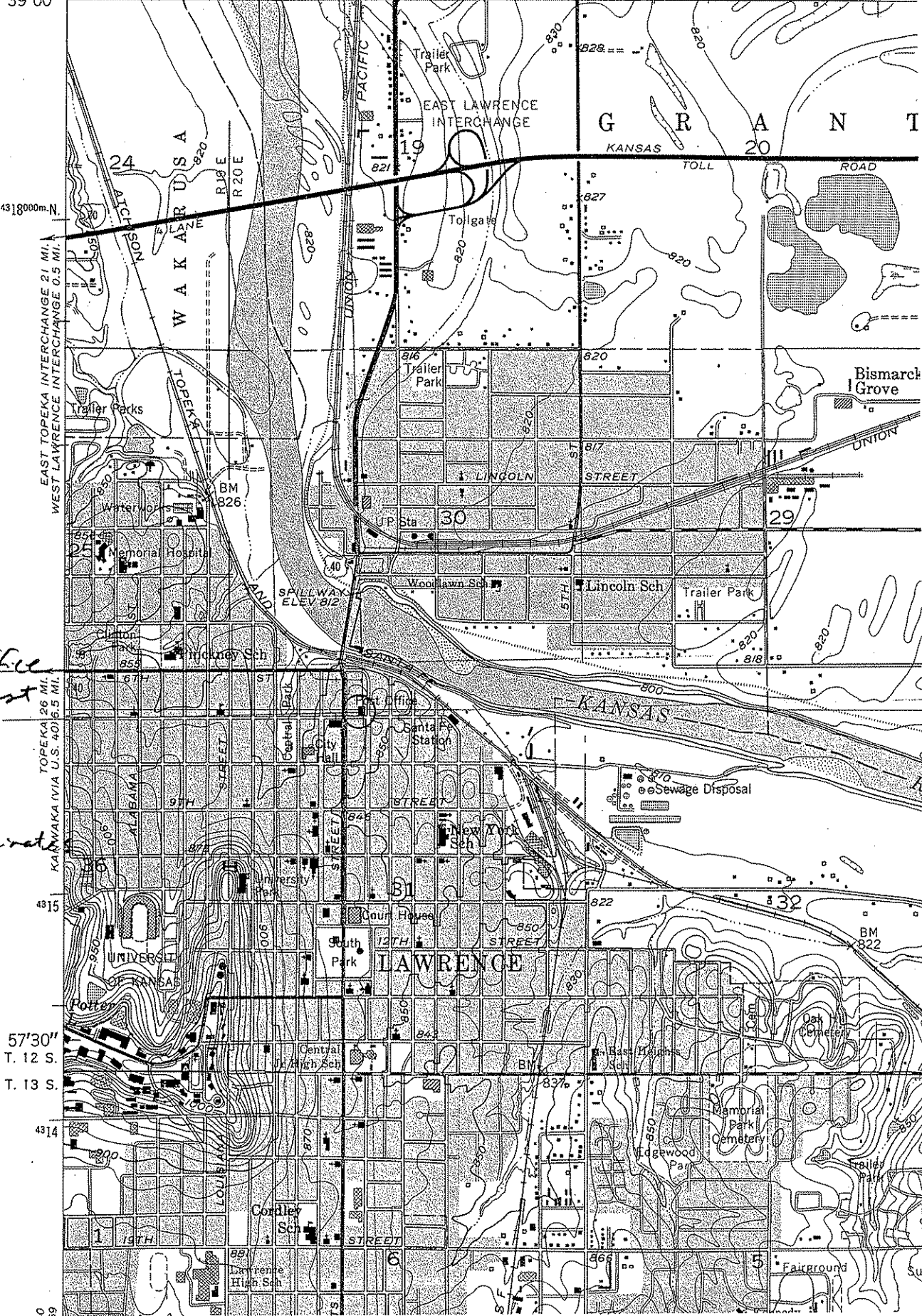
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

6962 III SE  
(WILLIAMSTOWN)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

95°15' 39°00' Oskaloosa 20 MI. 59 40 KANSAS CITY (JUNC. U.S. 71) 40 MI. TONGANOXIE 12 MI. 308000m. E. 12°30"



U.S. Post Office  
Lawrence East  
Quad

15 306380

4315780

UTM Coordinates

(8-86)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

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The Lawrence Post Office (c. 1906) is an example of Beaux Arts architecture. The property is located at 645 New Hampshire in Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas. The masonry and steel frame structure was rehabilitated in 2001- 2002 as office space for the Lawrence Journal World newspaper. To accommodate the rehabilitation, an addition that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation was added to the rear of the building. The building retains its integrity in terms of location, design, materials and workmanship.

The south side is organized in a complex tripartite division vertically including a double stone base, piano noble and an attic story with balustrades. It is organized frontally from two recessed corner bays to a central bay with four engaged dart pilasters. The cornice on the front portion, the 1906 building, follows the Doric dentils in the adapted cornice. The building is constructed of two major forms of stone forming the subbase and the base, this base also forming the pedestals and bottoms to the engaged pilasters, the lower piece being well-grooved limestone.

The upper portion of the building, featuring the stone base, piano nobile, and the attic story are grooved limestone. The seven steps in the center of the building lead up to an entrance level step. The entrance which is the center of three large windowed arches has the engaged broken pediment above the main entrance door and diocletian (Palladian) windows. There is remarkably fine carving around the entrance door. The whole central portion is held two feet in front of the subsidiary wings. The cornice and subbase line continue through above the windows which have a flat head with a large carved lintel stone of limestone, and panels above them to complete the form of the piano nobile. The basement level of the building has grilled windows for the building's basement.

The west facade on the 1906 portion of the building is divided into three bays with windows on the two exterior bays and a bricked-in window in the center. Each of these windows has a slightly different carved keystone which is similar to the side windows on the south side. The windows are similar in design but no diocletian windows over. (The) cornice is the same. The attic story is bricked-in between the pediment pieces. The subbase is the same as the south facade, the base is the same as the south facade. Two windows are in the basement with light wells externally.

The rear portion respects almost every single detail of the 1906 building but makes certain changes. There are no dentils within the cornice with follows the attic story completely. The engaged pilasters vary in detail with no rounded carvings on the base. The pilasters sit on the subbase when seen against the front portion of the earlier piece. Windows are similar in form but lower than the 1906 addition on the west facade and it becomes clear that this two story addition is in fact two (separate) stories rather than one large ceremonial space from the original post office in 1906. The building has some form of in antis on the northwest corner of the facade.

(8-86)

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

## **National Register of Historic Places**

### **Continuation Sheet**

**Section number** 7 **Page** 2

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The north facade follows almost completely the detail of the 1930 addition, including the various string courses at sill levels. The two exterior portions of the longer tripartite divisions step forward about a foot in front of the recessed center portion. The center portion of the facade includes pilasters on both the east and west sides. There is a loading dock addition with a hip and then flat roof, two large columns on either end, and two new central columns of cast iron.

The northwest corner is obscured with various air conditioning equipment and cyclone fencing. The lower portion of the loading bay is tripartite itself, with well arranged lighting, brick facade, slightly elaborate, brackets on the corner posts appearing to make it look and act like a loggia. There are double opening doors.

The east facade is broadly similar to the west facade except it has two side entrances with ten steps and an entrance step both on the southeast and northeast corners built out of similar stone as the base, with handrails. Lights with brackets above the doors exist in both the south and north bays of the 1906 and the 1930 addition combined. A new handicapped accessible entrance stands at the site of the loading dock.

The interior renovation opened the building back up, removing many of the non-original partitions and other adaptations. The project revealed the high, double story space of the original construction, opening up skylights and other windows that had been painted over. The terrazzo floor and marble inlay with marble base below the windows, restrained slightly reduced detail in terms of pilasters, were retained. Wooden windows and floor were repaired and reused. Matching glass globes for the chandeliers were installed. The renovation was reviewed and approved under the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation as an Investment Tax Credit project.

(8-86)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**Section number** 8 **Page** 1

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The Lawrence Post Office (c. 1906) is significant for its architect, architecture and as the first Federal building erected in Lawrence. It was built in 1906 under the government supervision of the Supervising Architect of the United States Treasury Department, James Knox Taylor (1897-1912). The contractor was Richey Brothers. Its Beaux Arts style was made famous at the French school, "Ecole des Beaux Arts" in the 1890s. It was introduced in this country as the American Renaissance and became a dominant factor in American architecture for approximately one hundred years in such buildings as Grand Central Station in New York City. Symmetry, emphasis on circulation and plan, the concept of axial organization and classical orders are all feature of the Beaux Arts style.

Beaux Arts buildings are characterized by large and grandiose compositions with lavish detail. Highlights of the style include projecting facades or pavilions with paired colossal columns, and enriched molding. Windows may be enframed by free-standing columns, balustraded sills, and pedimented entablatures. The Beaux Arts incorporates pronounced cornices and enriched entablatures surmounted by tall parapets, balustrades or attic stories as defining elements of the style.

In the early 1900s the style of post office buildings was according to the tastes of the Supervising Architect of the United States Treasury Department. Taylor was the incumbent Supervising Architect at the time the Lawrence Post Office was built. He believed that "government buildings should be monumental and beautiful, and should represent the ideals of democracy and high standards of architectural sophistication in their communities. He preferred styles derived from classical or early American traditions." (Boland, 1994) Taylor also emphasized the use of high quality construction materials and that buildings should be individually designed and not standardized. When the addition was built in 1930, government buildings were still designed by the Office of the Supervising architect. The plans for the addition were drawn on June 8, 1929 by the acting supervising architect J. A. Walmon.

Government site plans recommended that post offices be built near rail centers or in town centers. The Lawrence postal building was built near the Santa Fe Railroad at 413 east Seventh Street and the Union Pacific Railroad at north Second Street.

Lawrence was at an important period of growth and prosperity in 1906. The population had grown from 10,625 in 1885 to 12,123 in 1900. After the panic and depression of 1893, construction of major buildings began in the early 1900s; the Douglas County Courthouse (1903), the Carnegie Library Building (1904), the United States Post Office (1906), the Perkins Loan and Trust Company (1913) and the Eldridge Hotel (1929).

The first post office in Kansas was established on May 29, 1828 at Fort Leavenworth, the next being Marysville, November 11, 1854 with Lawrence next, January 13, 1855. It was organized by the citizens of Lawrence and located in the home of the postmaster, Carmi W. Babcock. During the next twenty years, the office

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

moved several times, finally moving into the Bowersock Opera House at the corner of Winthrop and Massachusetts Street in 1870.

Political maneuvering for a Federal postal building began in the last 1890s, with several congressmen trying to get a bill before the Congress. An editorial in the November 9, 1896 Lawrence Daily Journal said, "post office buildings go by favor and if a town has pull it can get a building. What Lawrence needs to do is get 'next' and make the pull herself." One man succeeded in acquiring a post office for Lawrence and that man was Justin DeWitt Bowersock, congressman from the Second Congressional District of Kansas.

Already a successful merchant and grain dealer in Iowa City, Iowa, Bowersock arrived in Lawrence, in 1877. The history of Lawrence is closely associated with the fortunes of Bowersock. Within twenty years he had established the Douglas County Bank; was director of Consolidated Barb Wire Company; director of the Leis Chemical Manufacturing Company, director in the Lawrence National Gas and Coal Mining Company; owner of Bowersock Opera House; proprietor of the Lawrence Paper Company and retained interest in the flour mill and the dam. In 1898, Bowersock was elected to the U. S. Congress, and on December 11, 1899, he presented a bill for the erection of the Lawrence post office. The Journal noted that "Bowersock introduced a bill in the House of Representatives today for appropriately \$75,000.00 for the purchase of a site and the erection of a government building in Lawrence. Bowersock intends to keep the bill on the list all the time so when the opportunity comes it can be taken up." (Lawrence Daily Journal, December 11, 1899)

When the appropriation came through in 1902, there was apparently some jealousy among the congressmen as to who would get the credit for this plum. Bowersock was finally given credit for the establishment of a Federal post office in Lawrence. The Journal commented on the altercations: "No matter whether you like Mr. Bowersock or not; no matter if you are going to vote against him; just be fair and give him the credit that is his due." The Journal brought out the fact that Bowersock had made a personal sacrifice in securing the post office building for Lawrence. The editor said that "he could for years to come have rented his own building to the government for a post office, but he was a man who worked for the interest of the city and not his own. (Lawrence Daily World, September 11, 1902)

On April 6, 1906, the post office moved into their new offices and within a year became a first class post office, with an income of over \$40,000 a year. Due to the rapid growth of the business development of the town, the gross receipts of the post office were higher than any town in the state with the exception of Kansas City, Topeka, and Wichita. In less than eight years the business was double what it was when the building was erected, giving credence to the fact it would soon need an addition. The addition completed in 1930, more than doubled the size of the original building.

In November 1929, an addition was added and the post office personnel moved to the old Weaver building. When they moved back, on October 13, 1930, receipts increased 18% over the past four years.

(8-86)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

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With the establishment of the United States Postal Service in 1829, post offices were the principal means of written communication which brought on the necessity of good roads. Thousands of dollars were spent by each county in Kansas to improve their roads, so they could qualify for rural free delivery, established by the Federal Government in 1896. In 1911, postal savings was authorized, which provided security for transfer of money, encouraged thrift, and made it easy for those without access to banks to save money. During the depression years this benefit was preferred by some instead of bank services. Parcel post, inaugurated in 1913, provided another service to the rural areas and in 1918, airmail was initiated with parcel post air service beginning in 1948. All these services went into effect in Lawrence when they became public law.

On April 16, 1908, a satellite station of the post office was established at the University of Kansas. On December 1, 1949, the Douglas County Extension Agency opened its offices on the second floor of the post office. The Internal Revenue Service also had offices on this floor.

When the Postmaster General became a cabinet post in 1829, important political figures sometimes rewarded party contributors with a postmaster position in their hometown. Postmasters were often important political activists and local organizers for the party in power. In Lawrence, the political jobs were held by the postmaster and rural postal carriers. Positions were filled on the "buddy system," and having Lawrence as one's birthplace was an advantage.

Judge George J. Parker, Lawrence postmaster, who took office in 1903, was the first postmaster in the new Federal building. Irving Hill was appointed in 1907 and held the office for more than four years. The Lawrence letter carriers joined the National Association of Letter Carriers on January 15, 1910.

Following is a list of some of the postmasters who have served Lawrence during the years 1906-1956.

1906 George J. Barker  
1907 Irving Hill  
1911 Charles S. Finch  
1915 Charles C. Seewir  
1920 Charles S. Finch  
1924 Clitus B. Hosford  
1934 Roger M. Williams  
1952 Harry R. Barnard (Acting)  
1953 James H. Parsons  
1957 John B. Harris

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

**Section number**   8   **Page**   4  

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In 1957 the Lawrence Post Office had 101 employees; 32 city delivery routes serving a population of 41,000 individuals; 5 rural routes serving 1,444 families. Mail was received and dispatched daily on 9 star routes and 16 train schedules. Revenue was approximately one and one-half million dollars annually. Today there are 170 employees, 56 city delivery routes serving a population of 70,000 individuals; 15 rural routes serving 4,000 families. Revenue at the Lawrence Post Office is approximately seven million dollars.

The post office closed in 1973 and was purchased by the University of Kansas to be used for storage. The masonry and steel frame structure was rehabilitated in 2001- 2002 as office space for the Lawrence Journal World newspaper. To accommodate the rehabilitation, an addition that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation was added to the rear of the building. The building retains its integrity in terms of location, design, materials and workmanship.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

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**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is located on The World Company Addition No. 1 replat of odd numbered Lots 1 -19 and numbered Lots 6- 20 on New Hampshire Street, Levee Lots 16, 17, 18 and all that portion of the vacated alley lying north and east of said Lot 6 on New Hampshire Street and together with all appropriate portions of vacated alleys lying adjacent to said lots as noted Block 1, Lot 2. The property is bounded to the east by New Hampshire Street, to the south by 7<sup>th</sup> Street, and to the north and west by adjacent property lines.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property contains all land historically associated with it.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 11 Page 1

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**Photographs**

U.S. Post Office  
Lawrence, Douglas County, KS  
Treanor Architects, PA  
July 2002  
Treanor Architects, PA

1. Southwest view, north and east elevations showing new accessible entry addition
2. West view, northeast accessible entry, new addition
3. West view, northeast entry, old post office
4. West view, east elevation
5. Northwest view, east elevation and south facade
6. North view, south facade
7. Northeast view, south facade, west elevation
8. North view, south facade, entry detail
9. Southeast view, north elevation
10. Entrance foyer looking east
11. South entrance looking west
12. Southwest conference room
13. Old mail room (newscenter) looking northwest
14. Old mail room (newscenter) looking northeast
15. Southwest elevation outside conference room
16. Old mail room (newscenter) skylight replaced
17. New northeast accessible entry and elevator lobby
18. Old mail room (newscenter) looking southeast at east offices

**Form Prepared By**

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